

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The action by the Examiner of this application, together with the cited references, have been given careful consideration. Following such consideration, claims 1, 3, 4, 5, 8, 14 and 15 have been amended to more clearly define the patentable invention Applicant believes is disclosed herein. Moreover, claims 22-27 have been added, and claim 2 has been canceled. Claims 6, 7, 9-13 and 16-21 are unchanged by the present amendment paper. This amendment is presented according to "Revised Amendment Practice" (37 C.F.R. 1.121), effective July 30, 2003. It is respectfully requested the Examiner reconsider the claims in their present form, together with the following comments, and allow the application.

The present invention is generally directed to a method and apparatus for wrapping loads of goods and materials in a wrapping material such as a plastics film. Battens are placed on the load and the load is partially wrapped so that preferably, the wrapping material overlaps the ends of the battens and holds the battens in position. The load is then turned about 90° and wrapped a second time so that the load is completely wrapped.

The Examiner has allowed claims 6, 7, 8/7, 9/8/7, 10/8/7, 11/10/8/7, 12, 13/8/7 and 18-21.

The Examiner has objected to claim 15 and the Applicant has amended claim 15 to replace the word "is" with the word "in" as suggested by the Examiner. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner now withdraw the objection to claim 15.

The Examiner has rejected claims 3, 4/3, 5, 8/6, 9/8/6, 10/8/6, 11/10/8/6, and 13/8/6 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Claims 3, 5 and 8 have been amended as appropriate to address the rejections made by the Examiner.

Claim 3 has been amended so that the language "such as a plastic film" no longer reads in claim 3.

Claim 5 has been amended so that "a second wrapping station" is introduced in line 10.

Claim 8 has been amended so that "a belt table" is introduced in line 1 rather than "the belt table".

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner now withdraw the 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph rejection to claims 3, 4/3, 5, 8/6, 9/8/6, 10/8/6, 11/10/8/6 and 13/8/6.

The Examiner has rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b), as being clearly anticipated. Claim 1 has been rewritten to include all of the limitations in claim 2. The Examiner has stated that claim 2 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner now withdraw the 35 U.S.C. 102(b) rejection to claim 1. Because claim 4 depends from claim 1, it is respectfully requested that claim 4 is now in condition for allowance.

The Examiner has rejected claims 14-17 under 35 U.S.C. 101, because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. Claim 14 has been amended so that it is directed to an "apparatus for wrapping a load." Claim 14 has also been amended to more clearly describe the invention that the Applicant believes is disclosed herein.

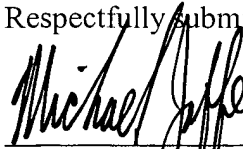
Accordingly, it is respectfully requested the Examiner now withdraw the 35 U.S.C. 101 rejection. Because claims 15-17 are dependent upon claim 14, the Applicant believes that claims 15-17 are now in condition for allowance.

The prior art made of record and not relied upon has also been reviewed. It is respectfully submitted that none of these additional references teach or suggest the Applicants' invention as defined by the present claims.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in proper condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes there are any further matters which need to be discussed in order to expedite the prosecution of the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

If there are any fees necessitated by the foregoing communication, please charge such fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0537, referencing our Docket No. TK7503PCT(US).

Respectfully submitted,



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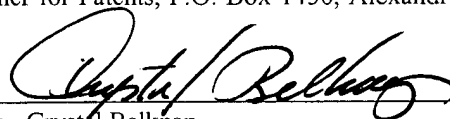
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I hereby certify that this correspondence (along with any paper referenced as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited on the below date with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop Amendment - Fee, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Date: March 15, 2004



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